

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION congratulating Butler University on its 160th anniversary celebration as a private institution of higher education and its many contributions to the State of Indiana in academics, athletics, fine arts, and education.

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**GROOMS**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION congratulating Butler  
2 University on its 160th anniversary celebration as a private institution  
3 of higher education and its many contributions to the State of Indiana  
4 in academics, athletics, fine arts, and education.

5           *Whereas, Sunday February 1, 2015, marked the beginning of*  
6 *Butler University's Founder's Week, a time when the Butler community*  
7 *came together to celebrate 160 years of history tied to Ovid Butler, the*  
8 *school's founder;*

9           *Whereas, Founder's Week at Butler University goes deeper than*  
10 *merely celebrating the life of Ovid Butler, as it aims to draw attention*  
11 *to the principles of stewardship, inclusivity, diversity, and equality for*  
12 *which he stood;*

13           *Whereas, Ovid Butler was a lawyer, abolitionist, and journalist*  
14 *who established Butler University on the foundation of admitting*  
15 *women and students of color;*

16           *Whereas, Butler University officially opened its doors on*  
17 *November 1, 1855;*

18           *Whereas, Founder's Week, held in February, centers around*  
19 *Founder's Day, which coincides with Ovid Butler's birthday on*  
20 *February 7;*

21           *Whereas, Originally named North Western Christian University,*  
22 *the school was based on the principles of diversity, equality,*  
23 *innovation, and access;*



1       *Whereas, While Butler University prides itself in being an*  
 2       *inclusive campus today, it has not always been this way;*

3       *Whereas, In the early 1900s, a quota system was established to*  
 4       *limit the number of black students admitted to the university and these*  
 5       *students were not allowed to live on campus;*

6       *Whereas, During the early 1920s, the state of Indiana was*  
 7       *challenged by the strength of the Ku Klux Klan and the grand wizard*  
 8       *of the Klan lived just across the street from Butler University's library;*

9       *Whereas, Butler University continued to admit women and*  
 10       *students of color throughout this time; then, in 1925, the grand wizard*  
 11       *murdered a female student;*

12       *Whereas, The grand wizard was tried and charged for the murder,*  
 13       *which ultimately led to the destruction and disbandment of the Klan,*  
 14       *but the damage had already been done to the reputation of the*  
 15       *university;*

16       *Whereas, Since then, Butler has tried to recover from this incident*  
 17       *and to promote a more accepting community;*

18       *Whereas, The Founder's Day celebration returned to campus on*  
 19       *February 7, 2014, after a Butler student wrote an article about a*  
 20       *professor using inclusive language in her syllabus;*

21       *Whereas, Terri Jett, Associate Professor of Political Science, says*  
 22       *this student claimed her statement was oppressive to him because he*  
 23       *is a white male;*

24       *Whereas, This article was posted on The College Fix website and*  
 25       *caused an uproar on Butler's campus, Professor Jett said the political*  
 26       *science department was then bombarded with phone calls filled with*  
 27       *hate;*

28       *Whereas, The faculty came together in support of Professor Jett*  
 29       *and signed a petition that reaffirmed their commitment to diversity and*  
 30       *inclusivity, bringing back the Founder's Day celebration to*  
 31       *demonstrate this commitment;*

32       *Whereas, Monica Strigari, Assistant to the Provost, explains that*  
 33       *Butler University was founded on the principles of stewardship,*  
 34       *inclusivity, equality, and diversity and that these tenets should hold*  
 35       *true today while being honored and celebrated;*



1        *Whereas, Tee Dennis, Vice President of the Respecting Embracing*  
 2        *and Achieving Community Harmony board, works with the Student*  
 3        *Government Association to help design some of the programs for*  
 4        *Founder's Week that focus on the four pillars of diversity: race,*  
 5        *spirituality, gender, and sexuality;*

6        *Whereas, Austin Del Priore, Senior Vice President of*  
 7        *Administration for the Student Government Association claims this*  
 8        *year's celebration gained more attention than in previous years; and*

9        *Whereas, It is fitting that the Indiana General Assembly give*  
 10        *special recognition to Butler University during its 160th anniversary*  
 11        *celebration: Therefore,*

12        *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
 13        *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

14        SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly congratulates  
 15        Butler University for the 160th anniversary celebration of its founding  
 16        and its continued commitment to the principles of stewardship,  
 17        inclusivity, diversity, and equality.

18        SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to  
 19        transmit copies of this Resolution to Terri Jett, Associate Professor of  
 20        Political Science; Tee Dennis, Vice President of the Respecting  
 21        Embracing and Achieving Community Harmony board; Austin Del  
 22        Priore, Senior Vice President of Administration for the Student  
 23        Government Association; Monica Strigari, Assistant to the Provost;  
 24        Kathryn Morris, Butler University Provost, and James Danko, Butler  
 25        University President.

